

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE ~~A28~~NEW YORK TIMES  
18 June 1986

## Israel Reports It Would Consider Extraditions to U.S. in Spy Case

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 17 — The Israeli Justice Minister said today that his Government would consider extraditing Israelis to the United States if they were indicted for involvement in an Israeli spy ring that bought American military secrets.

"We would consider it," said the Minister, Yitzhak Modai. "It has not been requested. It would not be customary. But we would consider it."

The comment, made in a brief conversation with a reporter after a news conference here, was the first indication that Israelis might be tried in the United States for their involvement with Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former United States naval analyst who has admitted selling military secrets to Israel.

### An Emotional News Conference

At a combative, often emotional news conference at the Israeli Embassy, Mr. Modai disclosed that three Israelis had been placed on administrative trial for their part in the case and then "fired" from Government jobs.

He identified the Israelis as Rafael Eitan, the former chief of a small intelligence unit within the Israeli Defense Ministry; Joseph Yagur, a former science attaché in the Israeli consulate in New York, and Irit Erb, a former employee in the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

It appears that the Israeli Government has no further plans to punish the three, who were named by the Justice Department as conspirators in the espionage operation.

Mr. Modai said the Israeli authorities "have investigated the matter, and they have fired the people who were involved in this issue."

He repeated earlier statements by Israel that the Pollard case "was an unauthorized deviation, a one-time deviation from the basic policy of the state of Israel."

In a case that has strained American-Israeli relations, Mr. Pollard pleaded guilty earlier this month to espionage, acknowledging that he sold secret Navy documents to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson Pollard, pleaded guilty to two lesser charges.

While there have been no other indictments, Justice Department officials say they are still considering criminal charges against Israelis named in the case.

### Extradition a Problem

Despite Mr. Modai's comments today, American law-enforcement officials say that extradition of the Israelis to the United States would be problematic. According to Reagan Administration officials, Israel generally does not permit its own citizens to be removed from the country for trial elsewhere.

At the news conference, Mr. Modai acknowledged that he had been instrumental in obtaining a new job for Mr. Eitan as the chairman of the board of Israel Chemicals, the nation's largest state-owned industrial organization.

He said that he approved the job for Mr. Eitan, who has been identified by American officials as the spy ring's leader, because of his long service to Israel; Mr. Eitan is the former chief of operations for Mossad, the Israeli intelligence agency.

Countering allegations that Mr. Eitan had been rewarded for his role in the Pollard case, Mr. Modai said that the position at the chemical company was not offered as a "reward." Instead, he said, the job was provided "in consideration of his past services."

Mr. Modai said the Israeli military would have to determine the future of a

fourth Israeli, Aviem Sella, an Air Force officer who has been described by American prosecutors as Mr. Pollard's first contact in the espionage operation.

### Officer Obtains Counsel

Leonard Garment, a Washington lawyer, said today that he had agreed to serve as counsel for Mr. Sella in the United States. Despite reports from Israel indicating that Mr. Sella is a brigadier general, Mr. Garment said his client is a colonel.

While declining to discuss details of the case, Mr. Garment said that he traveled to Israel last week on behalf of his client and met today with Joseph E. diGenova, the United States Attorney who is overseeing the Pollard case.

Discussing the American investigation, Mr. Modai seemed to raise questions about the Justice Department's reliance on information provided by Mr. Pollard, who has become the critical witness in the investigation.

For now, Mr. Modai said he could not accept Mr. Pollard's purported statements that Israeli officials offered him an Israeli passport and a money in a foreign bank account. "Has it been proven yet?" Mr. Modai asked. "He says he has a passport, that he's got money. What evidence do you have?"

### 'And This Is Justice?'

"You would go by every word that Pollard is uttering," he told the reporters. "Against Israel, you put up a million speculations. And this is justice? This is procedure?"

Mr. Modai's tone became harsh as he discussed allegations that the Israeli Government was involved in other espionage activities in the United States. He described the accusations, which have been made privately by Congressional and Justice Department officials, as "lies — they are completely unfounded."

"If you intimate that this is the tip of the iceberg, where is the iceberg?" he said. "If you intimate that there were other cases, where are the other cases. If you suggest that Israeli authorities knew about it, where is the proof?"

Asked if could deny that the Israeli Government was involved in other espionage here, he replied, "Yes, I can confirm that."